Kids Hope Alliance - November Finance Meeting Minutes

November 27, 2023

1. Introductions and Instructions

Cynthia Nixon, Finance Chair

Cynthia Nixon called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and began by introducing herself as the Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee. She then asked the other Finance Committee members and KHA staff to introduce themselves.

Mrs. Nixon asked for a vote to allow Committee Member Kevin Gay to vote for action items on today's agenda since he joined the call via Zoom.

Motion - Carson Tranquille

Second - Cynthia Nixon

Approved 2-0

Members Present: Cynthia Nixon – Committee Chair, Carson Tranquille – Committee Vice Chair and Kevin Gay (via Zoom)

Other Board Members Present: Marsha Oliver, Board Chair

Members Absent: None

2. Public Comments

Mrs. Nixon explained that public comments will be taken specifically for each item on the agenda. At the end of the meeting the public will also have an opportunity for general public comments.

3. New Business

a. KHA Financial Reports

Jessica Pitts, Director of Finance

Mrs. Pitts summarized the Budget to Actual Preliminary statement for FY 22-23 as of 9/30/23. Specifically, she pointed out the preliminary earnings on investment, revenues, contributions from general fund transfers and expenditures year to date. She also emphasized that changes to the budget were mainly due to increases and decreases to other operating expense lines from the budget. Other budget changes were due to the carryover of encumbrances from the prior year.

Mrs. Pitts explained that recapture funds are program dollars which were not expended in the previous year. The final amount of recapture dollars is typically available from the city in the February/March timeframe.

Discussion was had regarding the city auditor’s determination of recaptured funds and the ordinance which moves funds from our department to the City if they are unused.

The second report that Mrs. Pitts summarized was the Budget to Actual statement for FY 23-24 which covers 10/1/23 through 10/31/23. This report includes the carryover from FY22-23 which is reflected in Grants/Aids and Other Operating Expenses. She then detailed the revenues and expenditures reflected on the report.

The Finance Committee members requested to view the detailed financial reports which make up the summary reports (trust funds, external grants/aids, etc.) and Mrs. Pitts agreed to provide this information for future meetings.

b. UNF Intensive Summer Literacy

Dr. Grass explained that the UNF Intensive Summer Literacy program originated in the Public Safety Transition Committee led by W.C. Gentry. This program was operational during the Jax. Journey era and was formerly known as the Summer SAIL pilot and led by Dr. Cheryl Fountain. FIE begins on January 1, 2024 and will be an overlay for up to 20 of our existing programs. It provides intensive literacy tutoring and a concentrated curriculum. The contract is for $850,000 and has three annual renewal options. Ms. Hodges asked for a motion to vote on this action item.

Motion - Cynthia Nixon

Second - Kevin Gay

Approved 3-0

c. CAP Youth Artist Program

Lucy Chen, VP of Advocacy and Community Engagement at Cathedral Arts, summarized this Youth Artist Program which includes professional development for DCPS teachers, pairing academic achievement with a field trip component and expanding these services to more students. The research demonstrated that a single, arts-based field trip initiative for elementary school students is an effective way to not only introduce students to the arts but also help them succeed in school by improving their grades in literacy, math, and science.

The contract amount is $100,000. The contract date is January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for year one and for subsequent years with up to three annual renewal options.

Motion - Cynthia Nixon

Second - Kevin Gay

Approved 3-0

d. Ferst Readers Early Literacy

Dr. Grass summarized this program by explaining that the purpose of this increased funding is to provide one book per month to children from birth to 4 years old who are enrolled in a school readiness program. Children may take these books home and then the child care centers are also provided with a book on behalf of each child to build their classroom libraries. This initiative has already yielded positive results by involving families and teachers in the reading process.

This funding would expand the program for Ferst Readers in the amount of $100,000. The contract date is January 1, 2024 through May 31, 2024, for year one and for subsequent years with up to three annual renewal options.

Motion - Carson Tranquille

Second - Kevin Gay

Approved 3-0

e. Afterschool and Summer Literacy Expansion

Dr. Grass explained that these funds were provided as the result of a recommendation from the Mayor's Public Safety Transition Committee. The purpose of this grant funding is to increase funded seats at school and community based sites due to waiting lists. Mr. Leon Baxton, Communities in Schools, shared that this funding eliminated their 200 student waiting list and will also provide enhanced security in school sites that have over 100 students per day. The increased amount totals $1,900,000. The contract date is December 15, 2023 through May 31, 2024 for year one and for subsequent years with up to three annual renewal options.

Motion - Cynthia Nixon

Second - Carson Tranquille

Approved 3-0

f. Pediatric Mental Health Support

This action item was a recommendation from the Health and Wellness Transition Committee. The purpose of this grant funding is to support Pediatric Mental Health Support, a fully integrated, primary care and behavioral health pediatric practice in a community-based environment. Medical and behavioral services are provided at 9 locations and are open 7 days a week. A telehealth component is also available to break the barriers of transportation. There are 33,000 patients seen annually and of this number 25,000 children who receive Medicaid are served.

The services include traveling to crisis response services, case staffing, school staffing, and group meetings. Staff retention is threatened as compensation is 11% below the state average. The funding will begin to fill the gap in uncompensated care and implement the model of integrated health in a manner that can be scaled to further improve outcomes for children and families.

The funding amount is $430,000 over a 12-month period and up to a 10% increase in subsequent years. The contract date is January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 for year one and for subsequent years with up to three annual renewal options.

Board members asked the Angel Kids provider (Sarah Sayer) to explain the specific tracking we have in place to ensure that these mental health services are being delivered to the KHA population of students. This information will be discussed in greater detail at the December Board meeting.

Motion - Carson Tranquille

Second - Kevin Gay

Approved 3-0

g. Workforce Development Education and Training Services RFP

Mr. Kenneth Darity and Mr. John Everett explained that funding for this RFP originated from The Jacksonville Upward Mobility Program, JUMP, initiative which is dedicated to fostering a resilient and skilled workforce, tailored to meet the evolving demands of contemporary professions. Participants, especially those from distressed communities, will benefit from targeted training sessions and pre-apprenticeships/apprenticeships that not only equip them with competencies for in-demand roles, but also expose them to Jacksonville’s diverse industries.

Finance Committee members asked for an explanation of how KHA was able to tailor this funding to specific age groups. Shari Shuman explained the waiver of the age restriction as outlined in Sec. 180.106 of the JUMP ordinance which states that “The Kids Hope Alliance currently houses youth services including pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship training programs. Accordingly, the Kids Hope Alliance shall administer and oversee JUMP. Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in Chapter 77, Ordinance Code, there shall be no age restriction for participation in JUMP. Successful applicants under this RFP will provide workforce development education and training services for a variety of age groups.”

The initial term of contracts awarded under this RFP will be June 1, 2024 through May 31,2025, with options to renew, at the discretion of KHA, for three (3) additional full one-year terms.

Motion - Cynthia Nixon

Second - Carson Tranquille

Approved 3-0

4. Discussion of Activities and Timelines

Mr. Darity shared the proposed dates for upcoming Finance meetings which include January 16th at 3:30pm, March 25th at 2pm, May 15th at 2pm and July 17th at 2pm. Board Chair, Marsha Oliver, explained that increasing provider engagement and continuing bi-monthly site visits will continue to be a priority. A discussion was had and it was determined that Sunshine Laws allow committee members to host workshops, via Zoom, to obtain a greater understanding of KHA departments and for educational purposes. A quorum is not required for these workshops. Committee members decided to use this workshop meeting method instead of hosting monthly committee meetings.

5. Public Comments

There were none.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Cynthia Nixon at 2:42pm.